



Tempe Art in Private Development



Wells Fargo Operations Center

1305 W. 23rd Street

John Nelson

Flock of Black Birds, 2001

Steel

Artist website:

www.WhoNelson.com

Photo: John Nelson

Description: Ahead on the right above the city's skyline and above the rush of Tempe traffic you notice a *Flock of Black Birds* streaking across the sky. "They're not ordinary birds," Nelson says. "Part animal and part human, part nature and part culture, silent instead of noisy, defying the desert heat, oblivious to the clatter of an industrial neighborhood." Nelson believes that, in public art, even a small surprise can leave a big and lasting impression on the memory of passersby. With this work, Nelson hopes to create that extraordinary surprise that leaves a fleeting and pleasing visual impression on a busy world.

Artist biography: John Nelson lives and works in Tempe, Arizona. An MFA graduate of Arizona State University, his folk art-inspired works have been exhibited and collected globally. In addition to being an accomplished painter and sculptor, Nelson's mixed-media illustrations appear frequently in publications such as The New York Times, The Washington Post, and Rolling Stone magazine.

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